

New bird records for the island of Panay, Philippines, including the first record of the Asian Stubtail *Urosphena squameiceps* for the Philippines

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Of the ten to twelve major Philippine islands, the fauna of Panay is particularly understudied. This is well exemplified when comparing its known avifauna with that of neighbouring Negros, an island of similar size and belonging to the same biogeographical subregion, the West Visayas (named "Central Philippines" by McGregor, in Dickerson (1928); including the islands of Bantayan, Guimaras, Masbate, Negros, Panay, Siquijor, and Ticao). According to Dickinson *et al.* (1991; hereafter DKP), Negros harbours 271 species of birds, of which 190 are considered breeding residents. Panay, in contrast, has but 152 recorded species, of which 132 are known to be resident. Whereas 127 species are known to occur on Negros but not on Panay, only eight species known from Panay have not been found on Negros.

Of the entire faunal subregion, only Negros and Panay retain sizeable forest remnants (1.9 and 3.2 % of the land mass, respectively, Development Alternatives Inc. 1992). The two islands have been ranked as one area among the twelve most critically threatened and important Endemic Bird Areas of the world (Bibby *et al.* 1992), and better information on distribution and conservation status of their bird species is badly needed. This is particularly so for Panay which, due to inadequate exploration, has received too little attention by the conservation community, although it holds larger forest remnants than Negros.

In this paper, we present one new species record for the Philippines, an additional 34 new species records for the island of Panay and two new records from the satellite island of Boracay, all obtained during ornithological field work at various localities. Additionally, we document two other potential new records for Panay, plumage variation in one species, and further records of a 'critically endangered' species. We thus provide an update of the information given in DKP. Further details on species of particular conservation relevance are to be given in a separate paper (Curio *et al.*, unpublished; see also Klop *et al.*, 1998).

Scope of projects and localities

The data presented here stem mainly from two separate projects and reports by PA during five visits to southeast Panay. The main source is the Philippine Endemic

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Species Conservation Project (hereafter PESCP) of Frankfurt Zoological Society and Animal Behaviour Research Group (Ruhr-University Bochum), in which the authors, apart from PA, have been participants, and which has been operating on the islands of Negros and Panay since 1995. The gathering of faunistic data was partly incidental but at four localities (Hakot, Hamtang, Lahang, Sibaliw; see below) extensive mist-netting was conducted. Several visitors to the research station at Sibaliw, including Des Allen and Ben King, also contributed records. Secondly, two expeditions to the Central Panay Mountains in 1992 and 1993, under the aegis of the Philippine Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), West Visayas State University, the Japan Wildlife Research Center and the University of the Philippines at Los Baños (hereafter DENR-JWRC), conducted faunistic surveys (mist-netting, transect line counts) in the proposed Panay Mountains National Park. For localities see Fig. 1.

Central Panay Mountains

The Central Panay mountains hold the largest remaining tract of native forest in the West Visayan islands. Forest is mainly located on the slopes of four major mountain massifs, Mt Madja-as (2,117m a.s.l.) in the north, Mt Nangtud (2,049m a.s.l.) and Mt Baloy (1,728m a.s.l.) in the centre (elevations from Harper & Fullerton, 1994), and Mt Inaman (1,325 m) in the south. These areas are interconnected to some extent by forest corridors.

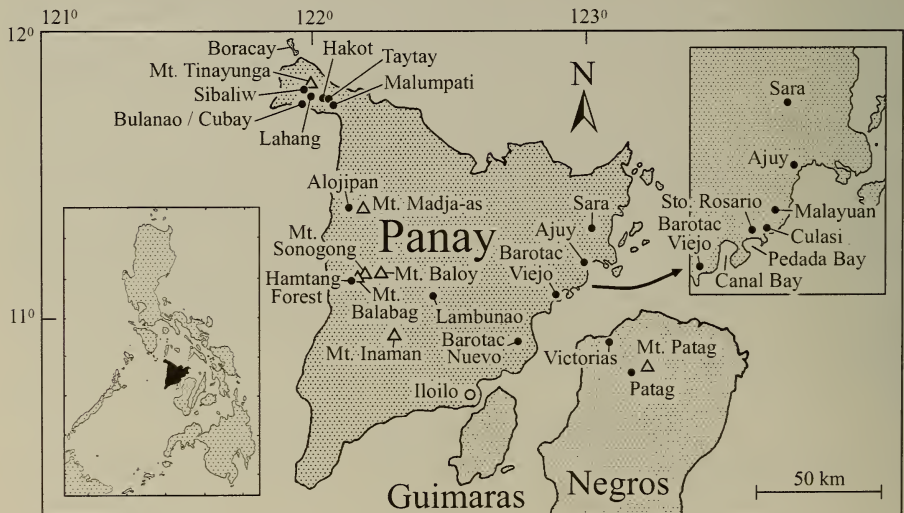


Figure 1. Map of Panay, Philippines showing the locations mentioned in the text.



Plate 1. Photograph of Asian Stubtail *Urosphena squameiceps* captured at Sibaliw, Panay on 9 October 1999 (photograph by Stephan Luft).

Hamtang (PESCP fieldwork; March-April 1995 and March 1996; 11°08'N, 122°11'E)

Hamtang is a forested mountain valley encompassing elevations from 900 to 1,100 m, located on the western slope of the Central Panay Mountains, west of Mt Baloy and southwest of Mt Sonogong (1,474 m a.s.l.). The nearest village, to the south, is Sitio Nawili, Barangay Igsoro, Bugasong, Antique Province, located at 180 m a.s.l. Barangay Pandanan is halfway between Nawili and the town of Valderama, Antique. The vegetation is tall, primary upland transition forest with significant proportions of *Casuarina* at lower, and *Podocarpus* at upper elevations. This forest supports moderate epiphyte and moss cover, and understory vegetation density. In most places, the moderately open canopy exceeds 20 m, with the tallest emergents reaching above 40 m. Large fig *Ficus* trees are relatively common. In the vicinity of the study area, very little forest is left below 900 m. The forest is bordered by non-native cogon *Imperata cylindrica* grasslands and steep hillsides on three sides, but is contiguous with remaining tracts of forest on the higher slopes and ridges towards the north and northeast. These are again connected to the forests around Mt Baloy. The topography is rugged, yet the valley itself possesses more accessible terrain. Unless noted specifically in the species accounts, bird records are from 950 ± 20 m elevation.

College of Agriculture and Forestry Forest Reserve (PESCP fieldwork; 22/23 February 95; 11°3'N, 122°29'E)

A small isolated forest reserve (c. 1 km²) at the eastern foothills of Mt Baloy, comprising disturbed lowland forest bordered by agricultural areas. The reserve is part of the College of Agriculture and Forestry of West Visayas State University, near Barangay Bayoyo, Lambunao, Iloilo.

Northwest Panay Peninsula

The mountain range of the NW Panay peninsula harbours what must be considered the last relatively significant remnant (c. 5,000-7,000 ha) of low elevation forest in the West Visayas, yet this has only recently come to the attention of the conservation community in the Philippines. Forest in some sections starts as near to the sea as 2 km and at elevations as low as 200 m. The highest peak of the inland mountain range, Mt Tinayunga, reaches 915 m. The forest area consists of two major contiguous blocks: the western quarter with the last significant stands of tall "lawa-an" *Shorea* forests, and an eastern portion of open forest on limestone with various levels of dominance by climbing bamboo (*Dinochloa* sp., the only species of this type in the Philippines, Haeupler pers. comm.). In the latter the tops of most of the higher ridges are dominated by impenetrable climbing bamboo; in addition, ridgetop open-canopy mossy forest occurs with a dense understorey, slightly stunted and heavily clad in moss layers and epiphytes.

Hakot (PESCP fieldwork; May 1996; 11°47' N, 122°02' E)

Accessed from Sitio Malumpati, Barangays Guia and Kandari, Pandan, Antique, and located towards the centre of the mountain range, at 600 to 750 m, Hakot mountain valley is located amidst primary submontane forest of intermediate stature, with broken canopy, fairly dense understorey, and covered in moss layers and vascular epiphytes (including *Nepenthes* pitcher plants). The primary forest is dominated by "Bankalawan" trees, with various species of palms, including rattans, while on the valley floor, is an area of c. 3-5 ha of 8-10 m tall secondary forest, dominated by "Balante" (*Homalanthus* sp.) and large treeferns (*Cyathea* sp.). Only a few prominent fig trees were found within the study area.

Cubay/Bulanao (PESCP fieldwork; 11°45'N, 121°58'E)

Two neighbouring coastal Barangays of Libertad, Antique, consisting mostly of rice and corn fields, coconut groves, and some sections of secondary growth.

Lahang (PESCP fieldwork; November 1996, March-April 1997; 11°48'N, 121°59'E)

Selectively logged primary forest on limestone, with some secondary forest at elevations from 450 to 500 m, accessed from Barangays Cubay/Bulanao, Libertad, Antique.

Sibaliw (PESCP fieldwork; from April 1997; 11°49'N, 121°59'E)

Towards the western edge of the peninsular forest block, fairly extensive primary forest (including tall lawa-an dipterocarp) at the heads of Buruanga and Bulanao Rivers. One area of *c.* 20 ha between the rivers holds secondary forest and scrub, formerly farmed but mostly abandoned for the last twenty years. This area, part of Barangay Tag-osip, Buruanga, Aklan, has been the long-term research site of PESCP since April 1997, at elevations from 400-650 m.

Southeast Panay

Pedada and Canal Bays are large, sheltered soft shore bays with extensive exposed mudflats at low water. Both have large mature mangroves, but few young plants due to grazing by herds of goats. Immediately inland there are saline fish and shrimp ponds. Human activity on the seashore is common, mainly fishing and collecting of shellfish, and hunting occurs, but is not excessive. This type of coastline is common along the eastern shore of Panay.

Talangban is a hill on the southern edge of the semi-contiguous group of degraded forest patches known as Malayuan (Evans *et al.* 1993). The hill receives some protection locally due to superstitions. Hunting occurs, but is apparently not excessive as Long-tailed Macaques *Macaca fascicularis* and Visayan Warty Pigs *Sus barbatus cebifrons* both still occur (PA). Two to three teams of charcoal burners work the area, mainly harvesting trees 5-10 years old of *c.* 10 cm girth.

Culasi and Barotac Nuevo are areas with a variety of different habitats: dry hill grassland and scrub with patches of bamboo, degraded secondary forest patches, dry and wet paddy, paddy stubble, and irrigation canals, along with houses, market-gardens, duck ponds, etc.

Sampunong Bolo Bird Sanctuary is a relatively well-protected reserve close to the town of Sara, holding 18 ha of forest (Evans *et al.* 1993). Its main feature is a large Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* colony, the only one known in the country. Huge roosts of fruit bats occur periodically, but are sometimes disturbed by local hunters. Puruguan Falls is a local beauty spot close to the town of Sara, 2 km from Sampunong Bolo Bird Sanctuary, consisting mainly of scrub and second growth.

Species accounts

We follow the most conservative approach, leaving to further confirmation those records which appear not to be sufficiently substantiated. Mist-netted birds were ringed, measured, photographed, and released (PESCP) or, in some cases, collected (DENR-JWRC). Identification in the field was based on du Pont (1971) and King *et al.* (1975). Additional information was later taken from museum specimens, and Brown &

Amadon (1968), Chantler & Driessens (1995), Hachisuka (1935), del Hoyo *et al.* (1994, 1996), Lekagul & Round (1991) and Svensson (1984). The taxonomy and order follow DKP. In most cases, the subspecies could not be established. We have specified where photographs were taken (photo), with copies available for inspection in the library of The Natural History Museum, Tring, UK.

New species for the Philippines

ASIAN STUBTAIL *Urosphena squameiceps*

One individual (Plate1) was captured by hand at 1930 h inside Station Sibaliw on 9 October 1999 (EC), apparently attracted by the lights. Measurements were: length 97 mm, wing 52 mm, tail 28 mm, tarsus 16.9 mm, bill length to distal nostril 8.2 mm, width at base 3.6 mm and culmen 2.9 mm, (all measurements similar to those taken on specimens of this species in the BNHM collection at Tring, JH), mass 9.5 g. This is the first record for the Philippines of this species which breeds in Siberia, Korea and Japan and winters in southeast Asia.

New species for Panay

JAPANESE NIGHT-HERON *Gorsachius goisagi*

An immature was mist-netted on 14 March 1995 in Hamtang (EC; photo), on a ridge above a dried-up river bed; identity was confirmed from a photograph by R.S. Kennedy (*in litt.*). This monotypic species is an uncommon winter visitor to the Philippines not previously recorded in March (DKP). Classed as Vulnerable, its status is declining in its East Asian breeding quarters (Collar *et al.* 1994).

SCHRENCK'S BITTERN *Ixobrychus eurhythmus*

An individual flushed twice from wet paddy, where the rice was close to being harvested, in the valley floor of Malayu-an, on 10 March 1999. Identified by chestnut back, pale upperwing coverts and dark flight feathers (PA). A rare winter visitor to most major islands including Negros (DKP).

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*

Recorded in Aklan Province in Feb 1993 (DENR-JWRC); at least two, probably more, were at Culasi fishponds on 2 and 5 March 1999 and singles there on 8 March and 8-14 April 1999 (PA). An uncommon, mainly northern winter visitor to most major islands (DKP).

CRESTED GOSHAWK *Accipiter trivirgatus*

A large hawk perched at Talangban on 7 March 1999 was observed through a telescope at full frame size. The size, thick dark brown barring on the underparts, streaking on the upper breast and thick mesial stripe, confirmed it to be *Accipiter trivirgatus* (PA). Two birds displaying over hills near to Culasi, on 9 March 1999, in a circular flight with sharp fast wing beats and undertail coverts fanned out to show the prominent

white colour, were also considered to be this species (PA), as was a large, dark brown accipiter near the northeast coast at Bulanao on 15 Nov 1997 (JH). An uncommon resident on most major islands except Luzon (DKP).

JAPANESE SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter gularis*

A small accipiter was mist-netted in Lahang on 30 March 1997 (photo). Its body mass (90 g) and short wing length (152 mm) are indicative of a male *A. gularis* (92-192.5g and 160-198 mm respectively for *A. gularis*, cf. 140 g and 185-209 mm for *A. soloensis*, Brown & Amadon 1968) or *A. virgatus*. *A. virgatus confusus*, resident on the Philippines, also has a short wing (152-185 mm, Brown & Amadon 1968) but can be ruled out by the palish grey upperparts of our bird, the presence of a bright yellow eye-ring and the absence of a mesial stripe. The species has been recorded on widely separated islands from Luzon down to Mindanao and Sibu (DKP). Although not listed for Negros (DKP), we caught a male at Patag (Negros Occ.) in 1995 (identity confirmed from photo by R. S. Kennedy, *in litt.*).

CHANGEABLE HAWK-EAGLE *Spizaetus cirrhatus*

Single fledglings of the light morph were obtained in 1998 by B. Engerer (pers. comm., photo in Curio 1999) and in 1999 by EC (from a private residence). They had been taken as *pulli* from nests on Mt Madja-as and from the eastern forest block of the NW Panay peninsula, respectively. One of them is in the custody of the PESCP and is being prepared for release. A light morph adult and juvenile were observed close together for at least half an hour in the coastal forest at Barangay Bulanao, Antique Province on 27 October 1999 (EC). Identification was based on bulky size, very short crest, and wings reaching halfway down the length of the tail (*versus* reaching only to the base of tail in *S. philippensis*). These are the first records for Panay, and it has only been confirmed breeding elsewhere in the Philippines on Mindanao and Palawan (Gamauf *et al.* 1998). The species has a wide distribution outside the Philippines.

PHILIPPINE HAWK-EAGLE *Spizaethus philippensis*

This species appears to have bred on Panay because two fledglings from the San Remigio area were acquired by Hon. Ezequiel Javier, the Governor of Antique Province, 3 or 4 years ago and the one still living is at his residence near San Jose (M. Ebreo, pers. comm.). A bird thought to be this species was observed perched at Sibaliw on 15 August 1997 (D. Allen, probable identity confirmed by A. Gamauf *in litt.*). Recent records of this Philippine endemic come only from Luzon and Mindanao, with distinct subspecies specific to these islands (Gamauf *et al.* 1998), although formerly from other islands including Negros. The taxonomic status of the Panay birds is unknown.

ORIENTAL HOBBY *Falco severus*

A pair of dark falcons, too small for *F. peregrinus*, was observed on 4 March 1996 in rapid, buoyant flight between Sitios Pandanan and Nawili on the denuded southern approaches to Hamtang (JH). An uncommon resident in open country and at the

forest edge on many Philippine islands; only one race (*F. s. severus*) has been recorded (DKP).

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola*

12 flew south at Canal Bay on 8 March 1999 (PA). An uncommon passage migrant, rarer in winter, to most of the major islands (DKP).

KENTISH PLOVER *Charadrius alexandrinus*

30 at Pedada Bay on 5 and 12 March 1999, with 100 on 8 March, and 300 spread out along several kms of coast at Canal Bay on 8 March (PA). An uncommon winter visitor to most of the major islands (DKP).

EURASIAN CURLEW *Numenius arquata*

Four at Pedada Bay on 5 and 12 March and 20+ at Canal Bay on 8 March 1999 (PA). An uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor to most of the major islands (DKP).

RUFIOUS-NECKED STINT *Calidris ruficollis*

Four at Pedada fishponds on 5 March and 20+ at Canal Bay on 8 March 1999 (PA). A common passage migrant and winter visitor to most of the major islands (DKP).

TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii*

Three at Canal Bay fishponds on 8 March 1999, identified by their similar size and gait to the 20+ *C. ruficollis* also present, their yellowish legs and greyish-buff upperparts and breast (PA). Although classed as a rare winter visitor by DKP, only known from Mindoro, Palawan and Luzon, it is doubtless a passage migrant too.

BLACK-WINGED STILT *Himantopus himantopus*

Six flew south of Culasi, Iloilo Province, on 14 March 1999 and 3 were at the same location on 24 March (PA). Uncommon, probably a winter visitor, reported from Mindoro, Palawan, Cebu, Negros, Mindanao and Luzon (DKP).

ORIENTAL PRATINCOLE *Glareola maldivarum*

One was at Barotac Nuevo on 21 June 1995 (PA). Fairly common, mainly as a passage migrant, but only on Luzon, Negros and Palawan of the major islands (DKP).

ROSEATE TERN *Sterna dougalli*

One was observed as close as 20 m flying north on the Panay side of the Guimaras Channel between Culasi, Panay and Victorias, Negros on 20 June 1995 (PA). It was in full breeding plumage with a red bill and rosy underparts. A rare breeder on Culion, Corregidor and Palawan, otherwise coastal and pelagic but no specific records mentioned (DKP).

WHISKERED TERN *Chlidonias hybridus*

Four Whiskered Terns in breeding plumage were observed on 17 June 1995, with two on 21 June, on the northern outskirts of Barotac Nuevo (PA). These are the first records for Panay and very late compared to previous reports from elsewhere in the country (DKP). Large numbers of *Chlidonias* terns were seen along the east coast between 1 March and 8 April 1999, and 28 January to 26 February 2000, all of which were considered to be *hybridus*, with a maximum of 200+ at Barotac Viejo on 1 March 1999 and 18 February 2000 (PA). Several *hybridus* were seen on passage, with 15-20 White-winged Black Terns *C. leucopterus*, above the Iloilo River from the beginning of April through to 25 May 1998 (A. Herzig, pers. comm.). Common coastal passage migrant to most of the major islands, recorded in every month except July and August (DKP).

BLUE-CROWNED RACQUET-TAIL *Prioniturus discurus*

This species was first recorded at Hanggod Tubig, Culasi, Antique Province, in December 1992 (DENR-JRWC). Several pairs at 900 – 1,100m in Hamtang Forest showed much activity in March 1996 at tree holes, including two woodpecker holes, one of which was also being investigated by White-bellied Woodpeckers *Dryocopus javensis*, and one broken branch (EC, YdS, JH photo). A pair took over a *D. javensis* nest-hole at Sibaliw in May 1998 (EC), and birds were frequently observed at Lahang (YdS). Two birds were confiscated from a market on the peninsula in 1998. Noted as fairly common up to c. 1,500m on most islands (DKP).

DRONGO CUCKOO *Surniculus lugubris*

One perched in bamboo at Malayu-an on 10 March 1999 - all black apart from pale undertail markings and with a small bill (PA). A fairly common resident on Luzon, Mindoro, Negros and Palawan of the major islands (DKP).

INDIAN CUCKOO *Cuculus micropterus*

Freshly plucked feathers were found at Lahang where two *Cuculus* sp. individuals had been seen the day before (E. Klop). According to R.S. Kennedy (*in litt.*), the feathers are 'with 95% probability' from *C. micropterus*, a species known to occur on Negros and several other islands in the country (DKP). *C. saturatus* has also been recently recorded on Panay by us and Miranda *et al.* (2000).

BROWN HAWK-OWL *Ninox scutulata*

One was seen at mid-day on 15 September 1995 in disturbed forest with climbing bamboo at 400 m above Alojipan (EC). An uncommon but widespread species with three endemic and two migrant forms known in the Philippines.

ISLAND SWIFTLET *Collocalia vanikorensis*

One was mist-netted at Hakot at 700 m on 7 May 1996 (YdS, LL photo), its identity being confirmed by R.S. Kennedy (*in litt.*) from our description and photograph. Tail

length (53 mm) and depth of fork (7-8 mm) also permit distinction from the visually similar *C. mearnsi* with 45-52 mm and 5.8-6.3 mm, respectively. Wing length (119 mm) does not (*mearnsi* 106-119.5 mm, *vanikorensis* 118-125 mm) (Chantler & Driessens 1995). As expected, the specimen falls within the measurements of race *C. v. amelis* in regard to wing length, whilst tail dimensions do not allow distinction from the larger *C. v. palawensis* of Palawan, the only other Philippine race (Chantler & Driessens 1995). The bird weighed 12.7g. This constitutes the first record from the West Visayas, although the species is known from adjacent Luzon, Mindoro, Cebu, Bohol and Mindanao (DKP).

PHILIPPINE NEEDLETAIL *Mearnsia picina*

One was observed flying over Talangban on 20 June 1995 and sketched at the time (PA). A fairly common but local resident to Leyte, Mindanao, Cebu, Negros, Biliran and Samar (DKP).

HOODED PITTA *Pitta sordida*

One was heard and seen at Lahang in March 1997 and another found roosting on a branch c. 3 m up in Bulabog Putian Natural Park in December 1997 (S. Luft, photo). One was seen standing in front of an empty nest at Sampunong Bolo Bird Sanctuary on 3 July 1997 (PA). The nest, which probably belonged to this bird, was of a similar structure to that of Red-bellied Pitta *Pitta erythrogaster* (which also frequents this area), i.e. spherical with a hole on the side, and was at the base of a clump of bamboo. Presumably the nominate race, a locally common resident to most of the major islands except Palawan where there is a different race (DKP).

ORIENTAL SKYLARK *Alauda gulgula*

This species appeared to be common in the southeast in dry and damp paddy areas, with singing birds noted throughout the period February – June (PA). Locally common resident to Bohol, Mindanao, Negros and Luzon of the major islands (DKP).

SCALY GROUND-THRUSH *Zoothera dauma*

One was flushed twice from the main trail above Sibaliw at 560 m on 28 November 1997, identified as a large thrush with scaly brown plumage and whitish outer tail tips (JH). Its presence coincided with the appearance of an Olive Tree-Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni* and snipe *Gallinago* sp. during heavy rain. Uncommon winter visitor, usually above 1,000m, only reported from Luzon, Mindoro and Palawan of the major islands (DKP).

GOLDEN-BELLIED FLYEATER *Gerygone sulphurea*

Noted as common in the mangroves of Pedada and Canal Bays since at least June 1995, with an adult feeding a juvenile on 21 June 1995 near Culasi, Iloilo Province (PA). Locally common but only on Luzon, Mindoro, Mindanao, Negros, Bohol and Cebu of the major islands (DKP).

LEMON-THROATED LEAF-WARBLER *Phylloscopus cebuensis*

One bird was seen in the College of Agriculture and Forestry Forest Reserve, Lambunao, Iloilo Province, in February 1995 (EC). It was distinguished from *P. trivirgatus*, *P. olivaceus* and *P. borealis* by its yellow face, chin and throat, contrasting with the rest of the plumage. Common on Luzon and occurs less commonly on Cebu and Negros (DKP).

NARCISSUS FLYCATCHER *Ficedula narcissina*

Single female and immature males were mist-netted (photo) at Sibaliw on 21 and 24 November 1997, respectively, and an adult male seen on 25 November (JH). All appeared to be of the nominate race as they were clearly not *elisae*, which is visually distinctive, while the third race, *owstoni*, is confined to the southern Ryukyu Islands of Japan (Brazil 1991). A rare winter visitor, recorded on Luzon, Mindoro, Mindanao, Negros, Cebu and Palawan of the major islands (DKP).

OLIVE TREE-PIPIT *Anthus hodgsoni*

One was seen on several days from 13 March 1996 in a dry river bed at Hamtang, and presumably the same bird was mist-netted (photo) on 23 March (JH). A second individual was mist-netted (photo) in secondary growth at Sibaliw on 23 November 1997, and five days later another was observed there, apparently forced down by rain while migrating over (JH). Two subspecies are uncommon winter visitors in the Philippines, of which *A. h. hodgsoni* was previously known to occur on Negros (DKP).

CRESTED MYNA *Acridotheres cristatellus*

Recorded in the lowlands of Antique Province in December 1992 and Aklan Province in February 1993 (DENR-JRWC) but strangely not noted since. This species was introduced from Luzon and had spread to Negros by 1970 (Rabor *et al.* 1970).

BICOLOURED FLOWERPECKER *Dicaeum bicolor*

Recorded at Hanggod Tubig, Culasi, Antique Province in December 1992 and mist-netted in February 1993 in Aklan Province (DENR-JRWC). Several were observed at Sibaliw in May 1997 (B. King) and during the period 14 November – 5 December 1997 (JH). Fairly common in the Philippines, with 3 endemic races including *viridissimum* from Negros and Guimaras (DKP), which is presumably the race on Panay.

EVERETT'S WHITE-EYE *Zosterops everetti*

Singles at Talangban on 22 June 1996 and Puruguan Falls on 3 July 1997, identified by eye ring broken above lores, yellow on throat and belly, extending as a stripe to the yellow undertail coverts, and prominent grey flanks (PA). Common with five races but on the major islands only recorded on Cebu, Siquijor, Bohol, Leyte, Samar and Mindanao (DKP). Hence the race occurring on Panay is of interest.

GREEN-FACED PARROTFINCH *Erythrura viridifacies*

Two all green *Erythrura* with red tails were mist-netted (photo) at Hakot at 700 m on 5 and 6 May 1996 (YdS) and at Sibaliw on 19 July 1997 (EC). The last bird had upper tail coverts and central rectrices red, but outer tail feathers green. There were no sightings during months of fieldwork at the latter site but two were seen at the Bulanao River near Cubay (open groves, bush and bamboo) in May 1998 (A. Herzig, PESCP). Described as uncommon on Luzon and Negros (DKP), and Endangered by Collar *et al.* (1994) on the basis of only three recent records (see also Allen 1999).

Records of new species for Boracay**EURASIAN KESTREL** *Falco tinnunculus*

A small falcon was observed in typical *tinnunculus* hovering flight over the golf course on Boracay Island on 8 December 1997 (JH). An uncommon winter and passage visitor with records from Luzon, Palawan, Busuanga, Batan and Mindanao (DKP).

GREAT-EARED NIGHTJAR *Eurostopodus macrotis*

One or two were calling at two locations and one was seen in flight on north Boracay on 7-8 December 1997 (JH). A fairly common local resident on Luzon, Mindanao, Mindoro, Leyte, Bohol and Samar, of the major islands, but not Negros (DKP).

Additional observations of interest**[BLACK BITTERN** *Ixobrychus flavicollis*

A heron, flushed from dense scrub by fishponds at Culasi, Iloilo Province, on 22 June 1996 appeared to be completely black on the upperparts and head, with dark legs and feet (PA). It flew low with frequent wing-beats like the small herons, rather than slower like egrets *Egretta* sp. It was thought to be *Ixobrychus flavicollis*, an uncommon and local resident on Cebu, Luzon, Mindanao, Samar, Mindoro, Batan, Siargao and Negros (DKP).]

PEREGRINE FALCON *Falco peregrinus*

Miranda *et al.* (2000) reported a single bird in flight on 28 February 1993, the first and only record for Panay. A pair was resident in March 1996 on a high cliff, at 950 m a.s.l., overlooking a steep mountain valley now mostly denuded and located immediately south of Hamtang (JH *et al.*). As these were very dark birds, they were probably *F. p. ernesti*, the resident subspecies recorded widely throughout the country (DKP).

PHILIPPINE FROGMOUTH *Batrachostomus septimus*

Colour dimorphism is known for the subspecies *B. septimus septimus* and *microrhynchus*: 'mottled' and 'chestnut', with intermediates, at least for the former; its occurrence is not recorded in the third form, *menagei*, endemic to Negros and Panay (del Hoyo *et al.* 1999). We mist-netted two individuals of an intermediate variety in which the grey/black vermiculation was replaced by beige/black, and

photographed a greyish bird, possibly an intermediate form, in the field at Sibaliw in 1999. One of the trapped birds was a male, with buffy scapulars throughout, and the other unsexed. This colour variation is not related to sex as differences in plumage have already been established for the two sexes (del Hoyo *et al* 1999).

[ORIENTAL/ CLAMOROUS REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus orientalis/ stentoreus*
A large *Acrocephalus* warbler, observed singing in mangroves adjacent to fish-ponds at Pededo Bay on 12 March 1999, was of interest as neither of the possibilities, *orientalis* and *stentoreus* are known from Panay. It was thought to be *stentoreus* on the basis of short primary projection, long tail and buff underparts (PA). *A. orientalis* is a fairly common winter visitor to Luzon, Mindoro, Mindanao, Negros, Cebu and Palawan of the major islands but *A. stentoreus* is an uncommon resident, of endemic race *harterii*, and only recorded on Luzon, Mindoro, Mindanao, Bohol and Leyte, not Negros (DKP).]

WHITE-THROATED JUNGLE-FLYCATCHER *Rhinomyias albigularis*

One was mist-netted in Hamtang Forest at 900m on 4 March 1995 (EC photo) and 3 were trapped and ringed there at different sites at 920-960 m in March 1996 (JH photo). Seven were trapped at Sibaliw at 400-500 m between 17 November and 5 December 1997 (JH photo) and others seen there at different times of the year (D Allen, B King, P Morris pers. comm.). It therefore appears that there is a viable population at Hamtang and Sibaliw. Seven specimens were taken in the Central Panay mountains by Miranda *et al.* (2000). Collar *et al.* (1994) described the species as 'critically endangered' because the only recent records were at two sites on Negros and it was thought to need forest below 900 m, which has virtually disappeared on Negros and Guimaras, the only islands from which it was known.

Discussion

Miranda *et al.* (2000) documented 37 new records of birds for Panay, of which we recorded 19 during our studies, in addition to the 35 new records reported here and one reported previously (Klop *et al.* 1998). Sixty-five of these 73 species are also known from Negros (DKP) and are therefore not unexpected. One, *Gallicolumba keayi*, is now so rare on Negros that it has been classified as 'critically endangered' (Collar *et al.* 1994), while *Erythrura viridifacies* has been moved from this category to 'endangered' in the light of our findings (Collar *et al.* 1999). The additional species reported here and by Miranda *et al.* (2000) increase the number of resident species known from Panay from 132 to 173, compared to 190 on Negros, with the number common to both islands rising from 135 to 172. Hence, the avifaunal similarity index ($2 \times C / (N + P)$, where C is the number of species common to both islands, N and P the number on Negros and Panay respectively - see Krebs 1972) for residents increases from 0.84 to 0.95. We consider that this comparison is most meaningful if restricted to resident species, i.e. if migrants, which could occur almost anywhere, are excluded.

Five new Panay species have not been reported from Negros (nor have *Falco tinnunculus* and *Eurostopodus macrotis* from nearby Boracay), bringing the total of these to 16 including three reported by Miranda *et al.* (2000). Of these, *Collocalia vanikorensis* is wide-ranging, as are *Falco tinnunculus* and *Eurostopodus macrotis*, and therefore are not unexpected. Similarly, *Urosphena squameiceps* and *Zoothera dauma*, being winter visitors to southeast Asia, are not unexpected vagrants. *Zosterops everetti* has possibly been overlooked on Negros as it occurs on nearby Cebu and Siquijor. Given the small size of the remaining forest (some 500 km²), both hawk-eagles (*Spizaetus philippensis*, which does occur on Negros, and *S. cirrhatus*), although thought to be greatly under-recorded (D. Allen *in litt.*), may be unable to sustain stable populations on Panay. Yet two breeding records of *S. cirrhatus*, each time ending in the robbery of one, probably the only, nestling, in different areas of Panay may indicate some permanence.

Both our discoveries and those of Miranda *et al.* (2000) give some hope that the conservation status for some of the endangered species is not as acute as feared. This applies to *Gallicolumba keayi* (critically endangered), while *Rhinomyias albigularis* and *Erythrura viridifacies* have now been reclassified as 'endangered' (Collar *et al.* 1999). These are elusive species that scarcely hold their ground on Negros. However, there is no reason for complacency since the taxonomic status, including the genetic differentiation of populations shared by the two islands, is still unexplored. Nonetheless, both the discoveries and the presence of critically endangered species, the two Visayan hornbills included (Klop *et al.* 2000), will help catalyse the gazetting of natural park areas on Panay (Curio 2000).

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